



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/730,137	12/09/2003	Daniel Gelbart		3211
720	7590	10/05/2005		
OYEN, WIGGS, GREEN & MUTALA LLP				
480 - THE STATION				
601 WEST CORDOVA STREET				
VANCOUVER, BC V6B 1G1				
CANADA				
			EXAMINER	
			FERGUSON, MARISSA L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2854	

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AK

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/730,137

Applicant(s)

GELBART ET AL.

Examiner

Marissa L. Ferguson

Art Unit

2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 17-19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5,7-9 and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamura et al. (EP 0,985,528) in view of Iron et al. (US Patent 5,488,906) and Miller et al. (US Patent 3,677,059).

Regarding claims 1 and 5, Okamura et al. teaches a method and apparatus for exposing processless plates (element 12) in a computer-to-plate plate setter (Column 3, Lines 34-36) and bending (9,10) the plate inside said computer-to-plate plate setter (Column 4, Lines 1-19 and Column 9, Lines 15-43). However, he does not explicitly disclose the system without making a plate and a sharp bend along one edge of a plate. Iron et al. teaches bending printing plates without making a plate (Column 6, Lines 43-48 and Figures). Iron et al. does not explicitly disclose a sharp bend along one edge of a plate. Miller et al. teaches a plate bender that bends a plate at a sharp angle along an edge of the plate (Figures 5a-5c). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention taught by Okamura et al. to include a system without making the plate as taught by Iron et al., since Iron et al. teaches that it is advantageous to focus on properly and firmly securing

Art Unit: 2854

the plate and to include a plate with a sharp bend as taught by Miller et al., since Miller et al. provides a sharp bend in order to properly register the printing image and prevent blurring of the image.

Regarding claim 2, Okamura et al. teaches a method and apparatus wherein said computer-to-plate plate setter is a thermal computer-to-plate plate setter (Column 7, Lines 27-34).

Regarding claim 3, Okamura et al. teaches a method comprising the additional step of automatically punching (element 7) the plate inside the computer-to-plate plate setter (Column 3, Lines 55-58).

Regarding claims 4 and 7, Okamura et al. teaches a method of bending (elements 9,10) processless plates inside a computer-to-plate plate setter (Column 4, Lines 1-19 and Column 9, Lines 15-43) and exposing the plates to imaging radiation (Column 6, Lines 17-33). However, he does not explicitly disclose the system without making the plates and a sharp bend along of edge of a plate. Iron et al. teaches bending printing plates without making a plate (Column 6, Lines 43-48 and Figures). Iron et al. does not explicitly disclose a sharp bend along one edge of a plate. Miller et al. teaches a plate bender that bends a plate at a sharp angle along an edge of the plate (Figures 5a-5c). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention taught by Okamura et al. to include a system without making the plate as taught by Iron et al., since Iron et al. teaches that it is advantageous to focus on properly and firmly securing the plate and to include a plate with a sharp bend as taught by Miller et al., since Miller et al. provides a

Art Unit: 2854

sharp bend in order to properly register the printing image and prevent blurring of the image.

Regarding claim 8, Okamura et al. teaches a method for forming one or more openings in the first processless plate while the first plate is in the computer-to-plate setter (Abstract, element 7 and Figure 1).

Regarding claim 9, Okamura et al. teaches forming one or more openings comprising punching (Column 8, Paragraph 0052).

Regarding claim 11, Okamura et al. teaches registering the openings (12b) prior to bending (Figure 1 shows borer 7 punching holes before proceeding to the bending machines 9 and 10).

Regarding claim 12, Okamura et al. teaches optically registering (3) the plate prior to bending the plate.

Regarding claim 13, Okamura et al. teaches optically registering the plate comprising using a video camera (24).

Regarding claim 14, Okamura et al. teaches optically registering the plate comprising using a laser (23).

2. Claims 5,6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamura et al. (EP 0,985,528) in view of Nakayama et al. (EPO 0950925) and Miller et al. (US Patent 3,677,059).

Regarding claim 5, Okamura et al. teaches the claimed method with the exception of positioning a plate bender system adjacent to an imaging system receiving imaged plates, punching the holes prior to exposing the holes and forming a sharp bend

Art Unit: 2854

along an edge of the plate. Nakayama et al. teaches an apparatus with a cylinder that holds and bends a plate (22) and uses an imaging device (26 and Figure 3) wherein the system also punches holes (Step 102 in figure 4) before proceeding to the exposure unit. Nakayama et al. does not explicitly disclose a sharp bend along one edge of a plate. Miller et al. teaches a plate bender that bends a plate at a sharp angle along an edge of the plate (Figures 5a-5c). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention taught by Okamura et al. to include a bending system adjacent a imaging system and a punching step before exposing as taught by Nakayama et al., since Nakayama et al. teaches to locate the bender next to an imaging device in order to provide a clear and concise image on the plate and teaches punching before bending in order to secure and ensure proper placement and/or loading of the plates in the clamping step and to include a plate with a sharp bend as taught by Miller et al., since Miller et al. provides a sharp bend in order to properly register the printing image and prevent blurring of the image.

Regarding claim 6, Okamura et al. teaches a method and apparatus wherein said computer-to-plate plate setter is a thermal computer-to-plate plate setter (Column 7, Lines 27-34).

3. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamura et al. (EP 0,985,528) in view of Iron et al. (US Patent 5,488,906) and Miller et al. (US Patent 3,677,059) as applied to claims 1 and 9 above, and further in view of Nakayama et al. (EPO 0950925).

Okamura et al., Iron et al. and Miller et al. all teach the claimed method with the exception of positioning a plate bender system adjacent to an imaging system and punching the holes prior to exposing the holes. Nakayama et al. teaches an apparatus with a cylinder that holds and bends a plate (22) and uses an imaging device (26 and Figure 3) wherein the system also punches holes (Step 102 in figure 4) before proceeding to the exposure unit. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to further modify the invention taught by Okamura et al. to include a bending system adjacent a imaging system and a punching step before exposing as taught by Nakayama et al., since Nakayama et al. teaches to locate the bender next to an imaging device in order to provide a clear and concise image on the plate and teaches punching before bending in order to secure and ensure proper placement and/or loading of the plates in the clamping step.

4. Claims 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamura et al. (EP 0,985,528) in view of Iron et al. (US Patent 5,488,906) and Miller et al. (US Patent 3,677,059) as applied to claims 1 and 4 above, further in view of Nakayama et al. (EPO 0950925).

Okamura et al., Iron et al. and Miller et al. all teach the claimed invention with the exception of registering the plate on registration pins prior to bending the plate. Nakayama teaches registering a plate by using pins (Paragraph 0043) before bending takes place. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention taught by Okamura et al. to

include using pins for registering as taught by Nakayama et al., since Nakayama et al. teaches that it is advantageous to securely fix the plate onto a bending cylinder.

Regarding claim 16, Okamura et al. teaches the claimed invention with the exception of an electrical circuit comprising a plate and registration pin. Iron et al. teaches an electrical circuit with a plate and registration pin (Column 4, Lines 54-67). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention taught by Okamura et al. to include an electrical circuit as taught by Iron et al., since Iron et al. teaches that it is advantageous to detect when the plate is properly aligned.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 17-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Regarding claim 17, the prior art does not teach or render obvious a bender that comprises an encoder connected to monitor a bend angle and a controller configured to stop forming a bend in a printing plate when the encoder indicates that a desired bend angle has been achieved.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion


7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Wright (US Patent 4,218,909) teaches a plate bender, Shoji (US Patent 5,787,812) and Koppelkamm (US Patent 6,450,094) teaches devices for fastening printing plates.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marissa L Ferguson whose telephone number is (571) 272-2163. The examiner can normally be reached on (M-T) 6:30am-4:00pm and every other (F) 7:30am-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Marissa L Ferguson


ANDREW W. HIRSHFELD
SUPERVISOR/UNIT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2854